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Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

Austria, Belgium, Benin,* Canada, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain: draft resolution

Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[2]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] particularly its recognition that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

Recalling further its resolution 59/137 of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to work with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups that continue to suffer from the effects of the 1994 genocide,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General entitled Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence,[4]

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See S/1999/1257.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] A/64/313.

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Recalling its resolution 60/225 of 23 December 2005, in which it urged Member States to develop educational programmes on the lessons of the genocide in Rwanda, and also requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to prevent future acts of genocide,

Recognizing the numerous difficulties faced by survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, who are poorer and more vulnerable as a result of the genocide, especially the many victims of sexual violence who have contracted HIV and have since either died or become seriously ill with AIDS,

Recognizing also Security Council resolution 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003, in which the Council called on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to take all possible measures to complete all trial activities by the end of 2008 and all of its work in 2010,

Firmly convinced of the necessity of restoring the dignity of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which would help to promote reconciliation and healing in Rwanda,

Commending the tremendous efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda and civil society organizations, as well as international efforts, to provide support for restoring the dignity of the survivors, including the allocation by the Government of Rwanda of 5 per cent of its national budget every year to support genocide survivors and the Diaspora One Dollar Campaign for Genocide Survivors,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to implement resolution 59/137 expeditiously, inter alia, by providing assistance in the areas of education for orphans, medical care and treatment for victims of sexual violence, including HIV-positive victims, trauma and psychological counselling and skills training and microcredit programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to urgently implement the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence;[4]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities of the programme of outreach entitled "The Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations" aimed at Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide;

4. *Notes* the importance of residual issues, including witness protection and victim support, the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and judicial issues and capacity-building for the Rwandan judiciary, and underlines the need for increased and sustained attention to these issues;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Rwanda, to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to support, in particular, efforts to enhance judicial capacity-building and victim support in Rwanda;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda completion strategy, to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, with concrete recommendations for the support of survivors of the Rwandan genocide of 1994;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence".